



came with traveling a long way: the Galapagos.

"I was a biology major who focused on ecology. I took the majority of my classes from Dr. [James] Findley, and—like most of his students—I learned to love bats," she says. "But I also became interested in evolution. Charles

Menczer traveled to the Galapagos to study an introduced bird: *Crotophaga ani*, the smooth-billed ani. "That was the start of my international conservation work, which is how I started helping animals in other countries," Menczer says. "And that is how I eventually started Animal-Kind International."



Workers from an AKI partner organization, Jamaica's Kingston Community Animal Welfare, help feed and care for the area's many "street dogs."



When kittens like this one were found on the grounds of a prison in Jamaica, AKI's partner organizations spayed and neutered them, then found them loving homes.

lived and worked all around the world with her husband Ron, a Foreign Service Officer. She made contacts with animal welfare advocates everywhere, from Africa to the Caribbean. She saw that the basic concept of kindness to animals



*Menczer's organization helped outfit Hope—a stray dog in Uganda whose back legs had been paralyzed after being run over by a taxi—with a wheelchair.*

such as Armenia and Bosnia, she says starving dogs would walk about in the cold but no one considered feeding them. And the local animal welfare organizations had so few resources, they were struggling to keep up.

When Menczer returned to the United States in 2007, inspiration struck. "That's when I realized that my experience with animal welfare groups in developing countries had put me in the position to help international animal organizations," she says. "They do so much with so little, and I wanted to get the word out. And I also knew that I could drum up some support for them."

Menczer and her team raise funds for their international partner organizations to use for vet fees, food, rent, and salaries. "We're the only organization that fills these gaps—we cover the overhead that's needed for some of these places to survive," she says. "We believe our partner organizations know best

let them decide what to spend on as long as it goes towards animal welfare."

Those funds have covered a wide range of necessities, such as an entire salary for an animal caretaker at USPCA; six months' worth of food for street dogs in Kingston, Jamaica (plus six spays/neuters); new roofs and food for dogs at Save the Animals in Armenia; a community spay/neuter program in Kampala, Uganda, and many others.

When she's not traveling the globe, Menczer lives in Jemez with her husband and a coterie of animals that come from near and far: Bruni, a large white dog who was a stray in Jemez; Eubic, a tan pup from Uganda; Lizzie, a wavy-furred dog from Albuquerque; Allie, a cat from Jamaica; LPOS, a calico from Uganda; and two donkeys, Sarah and Pancho. They might not understand the difference Menczer is making in the world as a whole, but they're most certainly aware that she's made